

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 25 with the following amended paragraph:

The protease is not particularly limited, so long as it can reduce the non-specific agglutination reaction without lowering a sensitivity of the immunological latex turbidimetry reagent of the present invention, for example, pepsin, papain, or ~~trypsin~~ trypsin. The above protease may be used singly or in combination thereof. Of the proteases as above, pepsin is preferable with respect to cost and stability. For example, the protease-treated BSA may be prepared by maintaining the BSA in an acidic condition, and adding a protease thereto. The resulting protease-treated reaction product can be used in the present invention, without purification.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 10/048,212

Please delete the present Abstract of the Disclosure.

Please add the following new Abstract of the Disclosure:

An immunological latex turbidimetry method for analyzing an antigen or antibody in a sample is disclosed, comprising steps of (1) bringing a sample which may contain the antigen or antibody to be analyzed into contact with a protease-treated albumin, and (2) bringing a mixture obtained in the above step (1) into contact with latex particles carrying an antibody or antigen specifically reacting with the antigen or antibody to be assayed, and analyzing a turbidity caused by a latex agglutination reaction. Also disclosed is an immunological latex turbidimetry reagent comprising (1) a first component containing a protease-treated albumin, and (2) a second component containing latex particles carrying an antibody or antigen specifically reacting with an antigen or antibody to be assayed.